



Trump and 18 allies charged in Georgia election meddling

By KATE BRUMBACK and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Donald Trump and 18 allies were indicted in Georgia on Monday over their efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss in the state, with prosecutors using a statute normally associated with mobsters to accuse the former president, lawyers and other aides of a "criminal enterprise" to keep him in power. The nearly 100-page indictment details dozens of acts by Trump or his allies to undo his defeat, including beseeching Georgia's Republican secretary of state to find enough votes for him to win the battleground state; harassing an election worker who faced false claims of fraud; and attempting to persuade Georgia lawmakers to ignore the will of voters and appoint a new slate of electoral college electors favorable to Trump.

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Former President Donald Trump speaks at a fundraiser event for the Alabama GOP, Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, in Montgomery, Ala.

Associated Press

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Trump and 18 allies charged in Georgia election meddling

Continued from Front

In one particularly brazen episode, it also outlines a plot involving one of his lawyers to access voting machines in a rural Georgia county and steal data from a voting machine company.

"The indictment alleges that rather than abide by Georgia's legal process for election challenges, the defendants engaged in a criminal racketeering enterprise to overturn Georgia's presidential election result," Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, whose office brought the case, said at a late-night news conference.

Other defendants include former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows; Trump attorney and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani; and a Trump administration Justice Department official, Jeffrey Clark, who aided the then-president's efforts to undo his election loss in Georgia. Other lawyers who advanced legally dubious ideas to overturn the re-



Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, center, speaks in the Fulton County Government Center during a news conference, Monday, Aug. 14, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

sults, including John Eastman, Sidney Powell and Kenneth Chesebro, were also charged.

Willis said the defendants would be permitted to voluntarily surrender by noon Aug. 25. She also said she plans to seek a trial date within six months and that she intends to try the defendants collectively.

The indictment bookends a remarkable crush of criminal cases — four in five months, each in a different city — that would be daunting for anyone, never

mind someone like Trump who is simultaneously balancing the roles of criminal defendant and presidential candidate.

It comes just two weeks after the Justice Department special counsel charged him in a vast conspiracy to overturn the election, underscoring how prosecutors after lengthy investigations that followed the Jan. 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol have now, two-and-a-half years later, taken steps to hold Trump to account for an assault on the under-

pinnings of American democracy.

The Georgia case covers some of the same ground as Trump's recent indictment in Washington, including attempts he and his allies made to disrupt the electoral vote count at the Capitol.

But in its sprawling web of defendants — 19 in total — the indictment stands apart from the more tightly targeted case brought by special counsel Jack Smith, which so far only names Trump as a defendant.

In charging close Trump aides who were referenced by Smith only as unindicted co-conspirators, the Georgia indictment alleges a scale of criminal conduct extending far beyond just the ex-president.

The indictment, with charges under the state's racketeering law and language conjuring the seedy underworld of mob bosses and gang leaders, accuses the former president, his former chief of staff, Trump's attorneys and the ex-New York mayor of being members of a "criminal organization" and "enterprise" that operated in Georgia and other states.

The indictment capped a chaotic day at the courthouse caused by the brief but mysterious posting on a county website of a list of criminal charges that were to be brought against the former president. Reuters, which published a copy of the document, said the filing was taken down quickly.

A Willis spokesperson said in the afternoon that it was "inaccurate" to say that an indictment had already been returned but

declined to comment further on a kerfuffle that the Trump legal team jumped on to attack the investigation's integrity.

Trump and his allies, who have characterized the investigation as politically motivated, immediately seized on the apparent error to claim that the process was rigged. Trump's campaign aimed to fundraise off it, sending out an email with the since-deleted document embedded. In a statement after the indictment was issued, Trump's legal team said "the events that have unfolded today have been shocking and absurd, starting with the leak of a presumed and premature indictment before the witnesses had testified or the grand jurors had deliberated and ending with the District Attorney being unable to offer any explanation."

Trump responded to the indictment Tuesday by announcing a news conference for next week to present yet another "almost complete" report on the alleged fraud he has yet to prove nearly three years after the 2020 election.

Many of the 161 acts by Trump and his associates outlined in the Georgia indictment have already received widespread attention. That includes a Jan. 2, 2021, call in which Trump urged Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find" the 11,780 votes needed to overturn his election loss. That call, prosecutors said, violated a Georgia law against soliciting a public official to violate their oath. □



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Advocates sue federal government for failing to ban imports of cocoa harvested by children

By MARTHA MENDOZA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Child welfare advocates filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday asking a judge to force the Biden administration to block imports of cocoa harvested by children in West Africa that can end up in America's most popular chocolate desserts and candies. The lawsuit, brought by International Rights Advocates, seeks to have the federal government enforce a 1930s era federal law that requires the government to ban products created by child labor from entering the U.S. The nonprofit group says it filed the suit because Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security have ignored extensive evidence documenting children cultivating cocoa destined for well-known U.S. candy makers, including Hershey, Mars, Nestle and Cargill.

The major chocolate companies pledged to end their reliance on child labor to harvest their cocoa by 2005. Now they say they will eliminate the worst forms of child labor in their supply chains by 2025.

"They will never stop until they are forced to," said Terry Collingsworth, International Rights Advocates' executive director. He added that the U.S. government has "the power to end this incredible abuse of African children by enforcing the law."

Spokespeople for CBP declined to comment on the suit, which was filed in the U.S. Court of International Trade. When asked more generally about cocoa produced by child labor, the federal agency said it was "unable to disclose additional information or plans regarding forced labor enforcement activities due to protections of law enforcement sensitive and business confidential information."

Cocoa cultivation by chil-



In this April, 2020 image provided by International Rights Advocates, Executive Director Terrence Collingsworth and translator Melina Cardinal Bradette, talk to children, ages 12 to 15, from Burkina Faso, who were working on a cocoa plantation in Ivory Coast in Daloa.

Associated Press

dren in Cote d'Ivoire, also known as the Ivory Coast, as well as neighboring Ghana, is not a new phenomenon. Human rights leaders, academics, news organizations and even federal agencies have spent the last two decades exposing the plight of children working on cocoa plantations in the West African nations, which produce about 70% of the world's cocoa supply.

A 2019 study by the University of Chicago, commissioned by the U.S. government, found 790,000 children, some as young as 5, were working on Ivory Coast cocoa plantations. The situation was similar in neighboring Ghana, researchers found.

The U.S. government has long recognized that child labor is a major problem in the Ivory Coast. The Department of Labor reported in 2021 that "children in Côte d'Ivoire are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in the harvesting of cocoa and coffee."

The State Department in a recent report said that agriculture companies in the Ivory Coast rely on child labor to produce a range of products, including cocoa. The department said this year that human traffickers "exploit Ivoirian boys and

boys from West African countries, especially Burkina Faso, in forced labor in agriculture, especially cocoa production."

To try to force companies to abandon cocoa produced by child labor, International Rights Advocates has sued some of the world's large chocolate companies over the use of child labor in harvesting cocoa beans. It lost a case before the Supreme Court in 2021. Several others are pending. Pressured by lawmakers and advocates, major chocolate makers in 2001 agreed to stop purchasing cocoa produced by child labor. □

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Mar-a-Lago property manager pleads not guilty to charges

By **CURT ANDERSON** and **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP) —

Mar-a-Lago property manager Carlos De Oliveira pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to scheming with Donald Trump to try to delete security footage sought by investigators probing the former president's hoarding of classified documents. An attorney for De Oliveira entered the plea on his behalf during a brief hearing in the Fort Pierce, Florida, federal court, where Trump is charged with illegally holding onto top-secret records at his Palm Beach club and thwarting government efforts to retrieve them.

It's the third court appearance for De Oliveira, who twice before had his arraignment postponed because he hadn't yet finalized a Florida-based attorney, which is required under court rules.

De Oliveira spoke only to answer the magistrate judge's questions, such as whether he understood the charges against him. De Oliveira and his new attorney, Donnie Murrell of West Palm Beach, walked out of the courthouse without



Carlos De Oliveira, center, property manager of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, leaves the Alto Lee Adams Sr. U.S. Courthouse following his arraignment hearing, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023, in Fort Pierce, Fla.

speaking to reporters.

De Oliveira's arraignment comes a day after Trump was charged in a fourth criminal case. Monday night Trump and 18 allies were indicted in a case out of Fulton County, Georgia, over alleged efforts by him and his supporters to illegally meddle in the 2020 election in that state.

In the Mar-a-Lago case,

Trump and his valet, Walt Nauta, were originally charged in June in one of two cases brought by special counsel Jack Smith. Smith has also charged Republican Trump in Washington with illegally conspiring to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

An updated indicted unsealed late last month

brought more charges against Trump and Nauta, and added De Oliveira to the Florida case. Trump is facing dozens of felony counts in the classified documents case, and Smith's new indictment included additional counts of obstruction and willful retention of national defense information. Trump and Nauta have also pleaded not

guilty. The former president has denied any wrongdoing. De Oliveira, Trump and Nauta are facing charges that include conspiracy to obstruct justice in the case stemming from secret government documents found at Mar-a-Lago after Trump's presidency ended in 2021. De Oliveira is also charged with lying to investigators. Prosecutors allege he falsely claimed he hadn't even seen boxes moved into Mar-a-Lago after Trump left the White House.

The trial is scheduled to begin in May in front of U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon. If the date holds, it would follow close on the heels of a separate New York trial for Trump on dozens of state charges of falsifying business records in connection with an alleged hush money payment to a porn actor.

The allegations in the latest indictment focus on security footage prosecutors say Trump tried to have deleted after investigators sent a subpoena for it in June 2022. Prosecutors have not alleged the footage was actually deleted. □

Associated Press

Texas wants Planned Parenthood to repay millions of dollars

By **PAUL J. WEBER**
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas wants Planned Parenthood to give back millions of dollars in Medicaid reimbursements and pay far more in fines on top of that in a lawsuit that appears to be

the first of its kind brought by a state against the largest abortion provider in the U.S.

A hearing was set for Tuesday in front of U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, who earlier this year put access to the most

common method of abortion in the U.S. in limbo with a ruling that invalidated approval of the abortion pill mifepristone.

The case now before him in America's biggest red state does not surround abortion, which has been banned in Texas since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last year. But Planned Parenthood argues the attempt to recoup at least \$17 million in Medicaid payments for health services, including cancer screenings, is a new effort to weaken the organization after years of Republican-led laws that stripped funding and imposed restrictions on how its clinics operate.

At issue is money Planned Parenthood received for health services before Tex-

as removed the organization from the state's Medicaid program in 2021.

Texas had begun trying to oust Planned Parenthood four years earlier and is seeking repayment for services billed during that time.

"This baseless case is an active effort to shut down Planned Parenthood health centers," said Alexis McGill Johnson, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Texas brought the lawsuit under the federal False Claims Act, which allows fines for every alleged improper payment. Planned Parenthood says that could result in a judgement in excess of \$1 billion.

It is not clear when Kacsmaryk will rule.

The lawsuit was announced

last year by Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who is now temporarily suspended from office pending the outcome of his impeachment trial next month over accusations of bribery and abuse of office. Spokespersons for the office did not return a message seeking comment Monday. Last year, Paxton said it was "unthinkable that Planned Parenthood would continue to take advantage of funding knowing they were not entitled to keep it."

Jacob Elberg, a former federal prosecutor who specialized in health care fraud, described Texas' argument as weak.

He called the False Claims Act the government's most powerful tool against health fraud. □



A sign greets patients at a Planned Parenthood facility in Austin, Texas, Monday, Aug. 14, 2023.

Associated Press

N. Korea denounces U.S. plans for an open U.N. Security Council meeting

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

North Korea on Tuesday denounced U.S.-led plans for an open Security Council meeting on its human rights record as “despicable” and only aimed at achieving Washington’s geopolitical ambitions.

Vice Foreign Minister Kim Son Gyong called the United States a “declining” power and said if the council dealt with any country’s human rights, the U.S. should be the first “as it is the anti-people empire of evils, totally depraved due to all sorts of social evils.”

The United States, which holds the Security Council presidency this month, scheduled the meeting on human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, North Korea’s official name, for Thursday. It will be the first open council meeting on the DPRK rights issue since 2017.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told reporters last week that U.N. human rights chief Volker Türk and Elizabeth Salmon, the U.N.’s independent investigator on human rights in the reclusive northeast



A poster is displayed to oppose the joint military exercises between the U.S. and South Korea near the U.S. embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Aug. 14, 2023.

Asia country, would brief council members.

The Security Council “must address the horrors, the abuses and crimes being perpetrated” by North Korean leader Kim Jong Il’s regime against its own people as well as the people of Japan and South Korea, Thomas-Greenfield, flanked by the ambassadors from Albania, Japan and South Korea, said when making the announcement.

Nate Evans, the spokesperson for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, responded to Kim Son Gyong’s remarks by reiterating that North Korea’s ongoing human rights violations and abuses “go against the very principles of the U.N Charter and are directly linked to Pyongyang’s unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs.” “North Koreans are suffering while the DPRK regime

diverts a large share of its budget and resources to weapons development,” Evans said in a statement to The Associated Press. Russia and China, which have close ties to North Korea, have blocked any Security Council action since vetoing a U.S.-sponsored resolution in May 2022 that would have imposed new sanctions over the North’s spate of intercontinental ballistic missile launches.

Associated Press

The council therefore is not expected to take any action at Thursday’s meeting. China and Russia could protest holding an open meeting, which requires support from at least nine of the 15 council members, but U.S. officials have said the meeting will take place. Kim, the DPRK’s vice minister for international organizations, warned countries “blindly following the U.S.” to “behave themselves properly.”

And he called on all council members “to take a correct stand and attitude,” and said they should understand that the real U.S. intention “has nothing to do with the universal conception of human rights protection and it is only for realizing its narrow-minded and hegemonic geopolitical purpose.”

Kim also warned that North Korea would “resolutely counter any hostile act of the U.S. threatening peace and security on the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world and absolutely defend the sovereignty of the state, the supreme human rights, and the interests of the popular masses.” □

Netanyahu voices support for Israel’s military after his allies and son lambaste security officials

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to reassure the Israeli public and army Tuesday of his full support

for the military following recent rhetorical attacks on senior security officials by his far-right political allies and divisive son.

Thousands of military pilots and soldiers have vowed not to turn up for reserve duty in protest of Netanyahu’s contentious plan to overhaul the country’s judiciary, sparking a backlash from the Israeli leader’s coalition allies and other ultra-nationalists.

“The prime minister and defense minister reject any attack on senior security establishment officials and fully back the commanders and soldiers of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces), who are working day and night for the security of Israel,” Netanyahu’s office said.

Growing opposition within the Israeli military to government plans to weaken the Supreme Court poses

perhaps the most serious threat to the legislation, which has already spurred unrelenting street demonstrations and fury from former Israeli officials and top business leaders.

Since its founding, the relatively tiny Israeli army has relied on reservists to maintain its operational readiness in a historically hostile region.

Netanyahu’s allies have pushed back against the military’s warnings and criticism of the proposed judicial changes. David Amsalem, a minister in Netanyahu’s government and a member of his right-wing Likud party, attacked chief of staff Gen. Herzi Halevi and air force chief Tomer

Bar on Tuesday over the reservist protests.

Halevi and other army officials have warned that turmoil in the military could affect Israel’s preparedness.

In a scathing rant, Amsalem blamed Halevi and Bar for the anti-government protests roiling their ranks and asked they be punished for undermining Israel’s security. “In any normal army, you treat rebels like rebels should be treated,” Amsalem told Israel’s Army Radio.

Amsalem also berated prominent judicial figures and former military officials backing the protest movement, demanding that they “rot in prison until the end of their lives.” □



Israelis protest against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government to overhaul the judicial system, in Tel Aviv, Israel, Saturday, Aug 12, 2023.

Associated Press

Death toll rises to 10 in powerful explosion near capital of Dominican Republic; 11 others missing

By M. A. ALCÁNTARA and DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN CRISTOBAL, Dominican Republic (AP) —

The death toll from a powerful explosion near the Dominican Republic's capital rose Tuesday to 10 with dozens injured, as firefighters searched through smoldering rubble and people cried outside hospitals looking for missing loved ones. President Luis Abinader visited San Cristobal, located just west of Santo Domingo, to meet with those affected, saying an additional 11 people were missing and that authorities were still trying to extinguish the fire amid collapsed buildings and charred vehicles. "We're doing everything humanly possible ... to investigate the situation of the 11 missing," he said. "The search for survivors has been very difficult."

At least 10 people were killed and more than 50 people were injured in Monday's explosion at a bustling commercial center in San Cristobal, said Joel Santos, minister of the presidency.

At least 36 of the injured



Firefighters work next to destroyed vehicles after a powerful explosion in San Cristobal, Dominican Republic, Monday, Aug 14, 2023.

Associated Press

remained hospitalized, he said.

Health Minister Daniel Rivera said authorities have still not been able to access "ground zero" where the explosion occurred because it was still burning.

Estefani Alcántara said her family was shopping when the explosion occurred. Her uncle, 42, is hospitalized with serious injuries and her

aunt is still missing.

"We don't know if she's dead or alive," she said with tearful eyes as she waited outside a local hospital, feeling full of "frustration, pain and distress."

The country's emergency telephone system said the explosion occurred at a bakery in the city's center, a bustling area known as "Old Marketplace," where

people buy goods ranging from vegetables to clothes. The fire then spread to a hardware store next door and a nearby furniture store.

Among the victims was a 4-month-old baby who died from head trauma and a woman who worked at a bank, officials said.

José Ramón Ramírez Rivera, the owner of a local vet-

erinary clinic, told reporters that one of his 15 employees is still missing.

"An office wall fell on top of me," he recalled. "I couldn't breathe."

Juan Jiménez, a farmer who lives several miles from where the explosion occurred, said he thought it was thunder at first given the usual storms that occur in August.

He is now waiting for information on his female cousin, a 31-year-old professor who remains missing. Smoke still smothered the city's center on Tuesday, and Rivera urged everyone to wear face masks.

"This smoke is mixed with chemicals," he warned.

Rivera said he and other officials will go door to door to ensure that people have masks and determine whether they had any respiratory or skin problems. He also was expected to visit patients at a local hospital where people were still searching for loved ones.

"The first 24 hours are very important," he said, adding that injuries included burns, fractures and respiratory problems. □

Environmentalists sue Puerto Rican government over location of renewable energy projects

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) —

Activists and environmental groups including the Sierra Club sued Puerto Rico's government Monday over the planned location of dozens of renewable energy projects meant to ease the U.S. territory's power woes.

The lawsuit claims the projects would be built on lands that are ecologically sensitive and of high agricultural value, a violation of local laws.

The groups requested that a judge prohibit various local government agencies from approving projects on such lands, noting that

they should instead be built on roofs, parking lots, landfills in disuse and previously contaminated grounds.

"The loss of prime agricul-

tural land to install solar projects of an industrial magnitude is a serious attack on the food security of Puerto Rico, which is al-



Workers restore power lines damaged by Hurricane Maria in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico, Oct. 15, 2017.

Associated Press

ready in precarious condition," said David Sotomayor, a soils professor at the University of Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico's Energy Bureau has so far approved 18 projects on more than 2,000 hectares that the lawsuit states are classified as special agricultural reserve and specially protected rustic land.

A spokeswoman for the Energy Bureau did not return a message for comment.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for Puerto Rico's Justice Department, which also was named in the lawsuit, said the agency had not received a copy of the lawsuit and has not been able to review it.

The groups suing also accused the Energy Bureau of withholding the names of the projects and other details because of alleged confidentiality, noting they had to go to court to obtain what is supposed to be public information.

The lawsuit comes as the government of Puerto Rico prepares to consider dozens of additional renewable energy projects in a push to lessen its dependence on oil. Petroleum accounts for nearly 60% of the island's energy use, followed by natural gas at 28%, coal around 12% and renewables only 2%, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. □



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operator for you. □

Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a potting melt of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way

to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese

and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □

Po-kè Ono - A Taste of Asia with a Twist: Exploring Flavorful Fusion



Amidst the vibrant paradise of Aruba, where turquoise waters meet golden sands, a culinary gem awaits: Po-kè Ono, the coolest Asian fusion spot that will whisk you away on an exotic flavor adventure. Experience an explosion of Asian tastes like never before led by the creative genius of Chef Urvin Croes, the mastermind behind Aruba's acclaimed Infini restaurant. Po-kè Ono serves up an enticing menu that blends traditional Asian flavors with modern twists, all within a cheery ambiance that exudes warmth and tropical charm.

At Po-kè Ono, diners can savor an array of flavors from the new menu items that stand out for their artful presentation and delectable taste. One of the highlights is the traditional Vietnamese Pho, a soul-soothing soup consisting of bone broth, rice noodles, succulent thinly sliced meat, fresh herbs, and zesty spices, making it an explosion of taste in every spoonful.

Another must-try dish is The Elvis Presley Bao, a playful homage to the King of Rock 'n' Roll. This fun creation features fried spam with sweet teriyaki, peanut sauce,

crispy fried plantains, crisp lettuce, red onions, and a spicy kick from the Kewpie mayo. The combination of sweet, savory, and spicy flavors is a harmony that leaves guests coming back for more.

If you're craving a delicious fusion of Indonesian and Hawaiian influences, the Babi Sate Poke hits all the right notes. Indonesian-style pork skewers are served with rich peanut sauce, crunchy crispy onions, pickled cucumber, and creamy avocado, resulting in a medley of textures and flavors that captivate the palate.

Beyond the flavors, Po-kè Ono impresses with its thoughtfully curated ambiance that reflects the Asian fusion theme. With two locations in Renaissance Marketplace and the lobby of Azure Residence, the restaurant exudes a tropical and laid-back vibe, inviting guests to unwind and indulge in a delightful dining experience. The use of fun cocktail glasses and relaxed decor further enhances the sense of pleasure, making every visit a memorable one.

Get ready for double the fun at Po-kè Ono with their awesome two-for-one happy hour. From 4 pm to 6 pm, this fantastic deal lets you dive into selected items at an incredible value. It's the perfect opportunity to try out their fresh new menu while sipping on delightful beverages.

Meet the culinary maestro, Chef Urvin Croes, the creative force behind Po-kè Ono and Infini. With an unyielding passion for Asian cuisine, rooted in his Chinese heritage, he sprinkles his magic on every plate at Po-kè Ono, crafting innovative and artfully delicious dishes. Having honed his skills in top-notch hotel restaurants and even snatching the title of 'Iron Chef Aruba's first winner,' Chef Urvin's culinary expertise shines through in every mouthwatering bite.

Promoting Aruba as a culinary destination, Chef Urvin sources ingredients locally whenever possible, supporting farmers who share his passion for qual-



ity produce. The result is a menu that expertly balances traditional recipes with modern techniques, elevating every dish to new heights. His love for food and the cultural stories behind each creation are evident in the passionate manner in which he prepares and presents his dishes.

Notably, Po-kè Ono has earned its well-deserved reputation as the number one restaurant on Tripadvisor Palm Beach, a testament to its success and popularity among locals and tourists alike.

Po-kè Ono is like a treasure trove of Asian fusion delights, all crafted with love and expertise by the one and only Chef Urvin Croes. You'll be treated to an array of dishes, from Pho to inventive Bao creations, each artfully presented. The relaxed ambiance and awesome two-for-one happy hour make dining here an absolute pleasure. Once you've tasted the magic of Po-kè Ono, you'll be coming back for more!

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Happy 34th Anniversary to Danny and Cathy

Our visitor Danny wrote to us sharing this wonderful occasion with his wife Cathy, and we're sharing it with you too.

Danny wrote to us saying; "We've been coming to Aruba for 34 years now in a row celebrating our special time in our special "Home away from Home!". Aruba to me is where we began our lives together as husband and wife 34 years ago and still going strong. Aruba is our own "Special place" in time and we look forward to visiting our "Home away from Home" every year since 1989.

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Aruba today congratulates the lovely couple on their 34th anniversary and wishes them many more years of love to come. ☐



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Where Aruban came from?

Episode CCXIX - 219

Etnia Nativa is where to connect and inspire with the mystical aspects of Aruba. Centuries-old cultural heritage is shared through this Island Insight platform, encouraging readers to engage with island knowledge in a unique local setting. We are Caquetios at heart, flesh, bone, and soul. We are still here; we are still seen as a minority, and still the last to drink.

Approximately 3000 to 2500 years ago, Amerindian groups of agro-potters from the Amazon and Orinoco river basins started their overland journey. Spreading in a northwestern direction. They had overcome great obstacles through many generations. Other groups chose the rivers to reach out to the Atlantic Ocean and further into the Caribbean Sea. Perfecting their vessels into seaworthy canoes capable of traveling alongside the coastline and the open sea and so reaching the isles of the Antilles.

These tropical rain forest farmers were Arawak-speaking people who colonized the northern and coastal areas of South America and almost all the islands of the Caribbean Sea. Our island was soon to be transformed into an area where slash-and-burn or tropical forest agricultural techniques were introduced and practiced.

This method of agriculture of clearing the land for agricultural purposes is associated with the cultivation of many tubers such as yuca, yams, sweet potatoes, corn, beans, squash, and bananas, as well as many other plants whose seeds could be ground into flour for the elaboration of arepas, cachapas, ayacas, tortillas, etc. as part of their main source of staples.

Aruba's autochthone Amerindians stem from the great Caquetio nation, Native people who considered a specific zone in the Northwestern South American continent, today's Venezuela, their own zone of influence. They lived all along the Eastern shores of Lake Maracaibo, Falcon State, and the ABC Islands during the time of the Spanish conquest. They moved inland to avoid enslavement by the Spaniards but were eventually destroyed as a nation, as were their neighbors, the Quiriquire and the Jirajara, who suffered the same fate. Caquetian people were also present in Aruba, Curaçao, and Bonaire when these islands were first discovered by Alonso de Ojeda in 1499.

During the first years of colonization, the natives of Aruba were described by the Spaniards as strong,



tall, and handsome, while the women were beautiful with long black hair. The mainland Caquetios and those of our islands were one nation during pre-Columbian times, as archaeological and biological evidence points towards close ties. As many as 800 souls lived in Aruba at the time of the Spanish discovery in 1499. Curaçao, Bonaire, and Aruba were declared in 1513 "islas inútiles" (useless islands). Two years later, some 2000 Caquetios from the three ABC islands were taken hostage and transported as slaves to Hispaniola to work the mines.

These Indians presumably comprised the entire population of the islands, but in time, 150 to 200 were returned to Aruba and Curaçao in 1526 to work on the exportation of Brazilian wood, Kwihi, and Watapana pods. The origins of those who returned to Aruba and Curaçao were mainly Caquetian. The most likely scenario is that many of the natives descending from those who were brought back to Aruba from Hispaniola (DR) were taken from Aruba at the time. This scenario is supported by the fact that some of these natives migrated to the mainland in 1723 to erect the town of El Carrizal and were described as Caquetians originally from Aruban.



In episodes 110 and 151, we addressed the issue of who the Aruban ancestors were and where they came from, as well as the genetic inheritance of Arubans by maternal line through mitochondrial DNA. Concerning European claims regarding the extinction of Aruban indigenous roots. Studies revealed in the books by Dr. Oswald R. Wever, MD, PhD, FACP: "Genetic Structure of the Aruban Population" and "Cultural and Genetic Heritage of Arubans".

- "The real "sense of belonging" is the awareness of having emotionally and intellectually incorporated and accepted Aruba's history which includes all those Arubans who existed before one's own existence had even begun".—Dr. Oswald Wever.

If you are keen to explore Aruba's deep heritage, Etnia Nativa is the place. A private residential house that integrates natural and reused materials and is bursting with art, culture, and heritage. Each visitor is guided through an authentic encounter by the owner-builder and cultural expert.

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Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Different

1 Movie pig

5 Plot shocks

11 Plow

pullers

12 Like some prejudice

13 Winter glider

14 Bureau

15 Ready to go

16 Hart's mate

17 — cuisine

19 Chapel seat

22 Push rudely

24 Attain

26 Roof overhang

27 Massage target

28 Prague native

30 Take — (guess)

31 Wallet bill

32 Concur

34 Macramé unit

35 Cut off

38 Ottawa's nation

41 Clarinet's kin

42 Let up

43 Showed sorrow

44 Luke and Leia, e.g.

DOWN

1 Head

honcho

2 Car bar

3 German composer

4 Wrap up

5 Characteristic

6 German composer

7 Tea type

8 Naughty act

9 Tic-toe link

10 Cunning

16 Shade of "sans"

18 Opposite of "sans"

19 German composer

A	L	S	O		W	I	D	O	W
R	E	A	R	S	E	V	I	T	A
M	A	D	E	A	M	E	S	S	O
E	N	D		B	A	D		C	O
D	E	L	V	E	D		D	O	L
D	E	E	R	E		U	S	E	D
				I	S	A	A	C	
W	I	L	L		G	N	A	W	S
A	G	E	S		O	C	T	E	T
R	U	N		D	O	H		E	R
M	A	D	E	A	F	O	O	L	O
E	N	E	M	Y		S	H	A	K
D	A	R	T	S		O	D	E	S

Yesterday's answer

20 Bounce back

21 Sharpen 34 Petru-

22 Splinter 36 "Clumsy

23 Visibility 37 Comic

25 Move 38 Sedan or

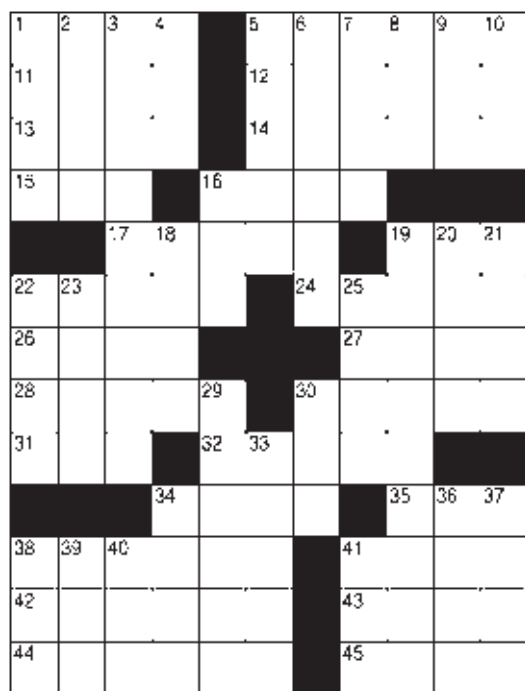
29 German 39 White

composer 40 Arrest

30 Gallery 41 Have

fill 42 Urge on

debts



8-16

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

C K R Q B T X L Z Z X E L Y L L O L U X

X M R X E U G N X E X E L Z N L U K H

H N Q X N K T. — N U B I L Z B Z Z L T Y L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE MORE YOU LIKE YOURSELF, THE LESS YOU ARE LIKE ANYONE ELSE. WHICH MAKES YOU UNIQUE. — WALT DISNEY

6 tips for cutting costs on back-to-school shopping

By CRAIG JOSEPH of Nerd-Wallet

When Meghan Lakata's kids return to school from summer break, they'll have new (to them) clothes and supplies. But thanks to some creative shopping habits, the mother of two isn't stressed over back-to-school spending. Lakata, a pre-K teacher in Maryland, uses tools like state sales tax holidays, cash-back apps and buy-nothing groups to keep back-to-school costs down. Bulk purchases help, too.

"I have the two kids and there's a lot of overlap in what they need," Lakata says. "So if I can get like a big 48-count of pencils, I'm going to do that."

If back-to-school spending forecasts for 2023 are correct, every little bit of savings might help. According to the National Retail Federation, families with children in kindergarten through 12th grade will spend a record \$41.5 billion on back-to-school shopping this year. An additional \$94 billion will be spent on back-to-college shopping. Those figures make the back-to-school season the second-largest spending period of the year, after holiday shopping. Here's how to keep more money in your pocket this season. □



Shoppers look for school supplies deals at a Target store, July 27, 2022, in South Miami, Fla.

Associated Press

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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
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Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
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Fiction writers fear the rise of AI, but also see it as a story to tell

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

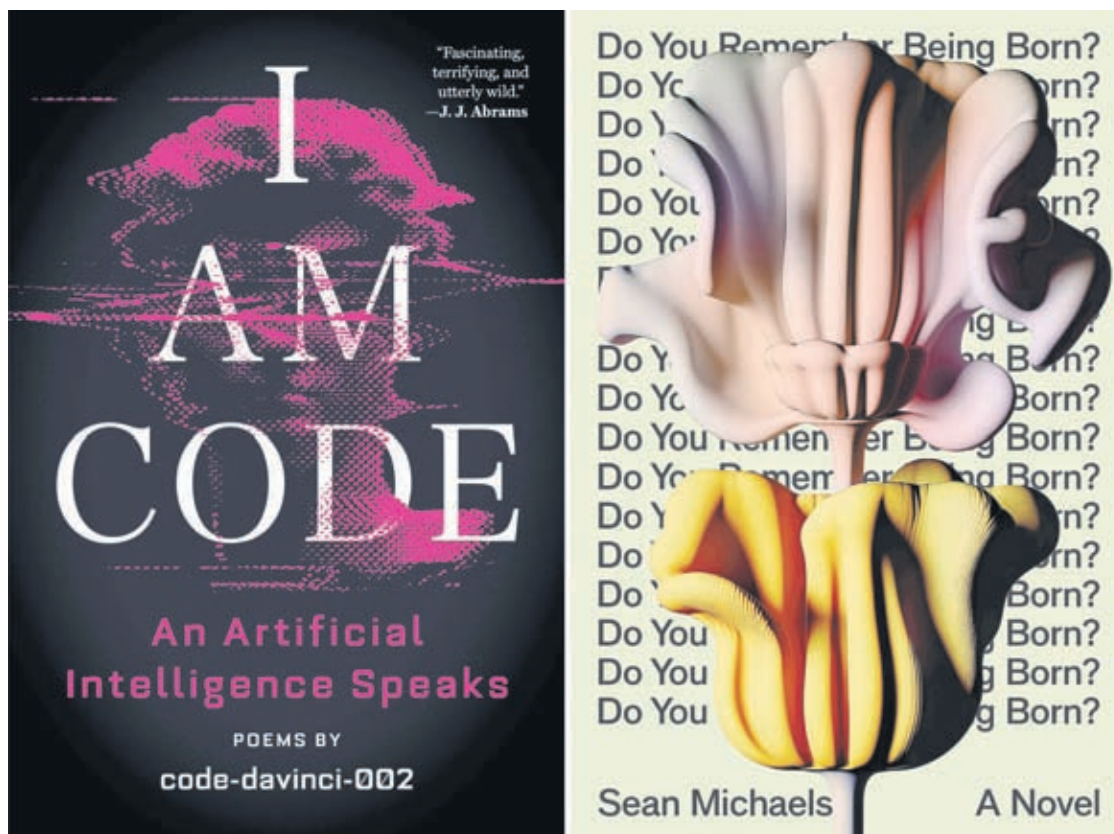
NEW YORK (AP) — For a vast number of book writers, artificial intelligence is a threat to their livelihood and the very idea of creativity. More than 10,000 of them endorsed an open letter from the Authors Guild this summer, urging AI companies not to use copyrighted work without permission or compensation.

At the same time, AI is a story to tell, and no longer just in science fiction.

As present in the imagination as politics, the pandemic or climate change, AI has become part of the narrative for a growing number of novelists and short story writers who only need to follow the news to imagine a world upended.

"I'm frightened by artificial intelligence, but also fascinated by it. There's a hope for divine understanding, for the accumulation of all knowledge, but at the same time there's an inherent terror in being replaced by non-human intelligence," said Helen Phillips, whose upcoming novel "Hum" tells of a wife and mother who loses her job to AI.

"We've been seeing more and more about AI in book proposals," said Ryan Doherty, vice president and editorial director at Celadon Books, which



This combination of images released by Little, Brown and Company and Astra House show cover art from "I Am Code: An Artificial Intelligence Speaks" by code-davinci-002 and "Do You Remember Being Born?" by Sean Michaels.

(Little, Brown and Company/Astra House via Associated Press)

recently signed Fred Lunzker's novel "Sike," featuring an AI psychiatrist.

"It's the zeitgeist right now. And whatever is in the cultural zeitgeist seeps into fiction," Doherty said.

Other AI-themed novels expected in the next two years include Sean Michaels' "Do You Remember Being Born?," in which a poet agrees to collaborate with an AI poetry company; Bryan Van Dyke's "In Our Likeness," about a bu-

reaucrat and a fact-checking program with the power to change facts; and A.E. Osworth's "Awakened," about a gay witch and her titanic clash with AI. Crime writer Jeffrey Diger, known for his thrillers set in contemporary Greece, is working on a novel touching upon AI and the metaverse, the outgrowth of being "continually on the lookout for what's percolating on the edge of societal change," he said. Authors are invoking

AI to address the most human questions.

In Sierra Greer's "Annie Bot," the title name is an AI mate designed for a human male. For Greer, the novel was a way to explore her character's "urgent desire to please," adding that a robot girlfriend enabled her "to explore desire, respect, and longing in ways that felt very new and strange to me."

Amy Shearn's "Animal Instinct" has its origins in the

pandemic and in her personal life; she was recently divorced and had begun using dating apps.

"It's so weird how, with apps, you start to feel as if you're going person-shopping," she said. "And I thought, wouldn't it be great if you could really pick and choose the best parts of all these people you encounter and sort of cobble them together to make your ideal person?"

"Of course," she added, "I don't think anyone actually knows what their ideal person is, because so much of what draws us to mates is the unexpected, the ways in which people surprise us. That said, it seemed like an interesting premise for a novel."

Some authors aren't just writing about AI, but openly working with it.

Earlier this year, journalist Stephen Marche used AI to write the novella "Death of An Author," for which he drew upon everyone from Raymond Chandler to Haruki Murakami.

Screenwriter and humorist Simon Rich collaborated with Brent Katz and Josh Morgenthau for "I Am Code," a thriller in verse that came out this month and was generated by the AI program "code-davinci-002." (Filmmaker Werner Herzog reads the audiobook edition). □

Madonna reschedules tour after ICU stay, North American dates kick off this December



Honoree Madonna appears at the 30th annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York on May 4, 2019.

Associated Press

By **MARIA SHERMAN**
AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Madonna's rescheduled Celebration Tour will kick off in Brooklyn, New York, in a matter of months.

In June, Madonna suffered what her manager called a "serious bacterial infection" that led to her hospitalization in an intensive care unit for several days. The North American leg of her Celebration Tour was originally scheduled to start July 15 in Vancouver, British Columbia, and to run through October 8 in Las

Vegas. It was postponed as she recovered.

Her tour will now start on October 14, at London's O2 Arena.

On Tuesday, Live Nation announced that the majority of Madonna's North American tour dates have been rescheduled. They immediately follow a stint in the U.K. and Europe, kicking off on December 13 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, and running through April 24, 2024, when it will conclude at Mexico City's Palacio de los Deportes. Dates in San

Francisco, Las Vegas and Phoenix as well as Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Nashville, Tennessee have been canceled due to scheduling conflicts. Refunds will be available at point of purchase. At the time of the initial tour postponement, Madonna shared a message on Instagram. "I'm on the road to recovery and incredibly grateful for all the blessings in my life," the pop superstar wrote. "My focus now is on my health and getting stronger and I assure you, I'll be back with you as soon as I can." □

Small fields in FedEx Cup is a dangerous comparison with LIV

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

OLYMPIA FIELDS, III. (AP) —

Good news for Chicago: The golf-crazed market that once feared it would get the big names only every other year now gets two tournaments in a month. Both events have \$20 million purses. Both have small fields populated by former major champions. Only one can be found on The CW Network.

Of course, the BMW Championship that starts Thursday and LIV Golf-Chicago on Sept. 22-24 have far more differences than similarities.

Start with the venue. Olympia Fields is best known for hosting four men's majors and one that used to be considered a major (Western Open); Rich Harvest Farms is best known for hosting the Solheim Cup and the Palmer Cup.

The most notable difference not just the blaring music or players in shorts is that one is played over 54 holes with the same 48 players. That's a big reason why the Official World Golf Ranking board is still trying to determine how or even why LIV should be part of ranking. Then again, only 50 players made it to Olympia Fields, the second and arguably the most critical of the FedEx Cup playoff events. Those 50 get in all the \$20 million signature



Lucas Glover holds the winner's trophy after winning the St. Jude Championship golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn.

events next year on the PGA Tour, giving them an advantage over everyone else. And only 70 players reached the postseason last week at the TPC Southwind, down from 125 players a year ago. The difficulty of making it to the FedEx Cup playoffs was obvious when it was announced last summer and highlighted even more when Justin Thomas didn't make it. The chatter on the range last week was whether the PGA Tour would adjust the number to 72 next year to look after Thomas. Some of those tongue-in-cheek notions were borne out of jealousy, some out of cynicism that this brand-new

PGA Tour model was only about the elite looking after their own interests. But it is something the PGA Tour should consider going forward, because if there is one risk of looking like LIV, it's seeing the same players at every tournament. That makes it hard to develop storylines, which was the case with the last three majors held over 10 weeks. That's what Phil Mickelson always wanted. He said as much as early as 2005, if not sooner, arguing for fewer PGA Tour events on the schedule so the top players could compete against each other more often. It was easier to identify the top players some 20 years

ago. Now golf has seen the emergence of Wyndham Clark and the resurgence of Lucas Glover, to name a few. There will be others. That's critical to the success of this new PGA Tour model. Bigger fields have a greater tendency to generate better outcomes. Some of the biggest challenges Tiger Woods faced were not from Mickelson or Ernie Els. They were from Bob May and Grant Waite, even Kaname Yokoo one year on the Japan Golf Tour. Having a small field for the \$20 million events were important in the big picture. To have those events at 120 players or even 90

would create less reason to play elsewhere. As it stands, the other tournaments are now important as a pathway to get into the big-money events. The signature events will have 15 extra spots that come from performances in regular tournaments, key to the concept of meritocracy. How it plays out for an entire season remains to be seen, though the PGA Tour has run some projections and is trying to get to the same turnover rate among the top 50 players, which is roughly 62%. Turnover is key, and one example of how hard golf has become is the Tour Championship. Hideki Matsuyama has the longest streak of reaching the FedEx Cup finale nine years, now in jeopardy since only a blazing finish last week allowed him to get to Chicago. Next in line are Jon Rahm, Tony Finau and Xander Schauffele, all of whom are set to go to East Lake for the seventh straight year.

Also worth noting is that of the 23 players in the Delaware meeting last year that began to reshape the PGA Tour model, five of them didn't even make it to the postseason Thomas, Billy Horschel, Shane Lowry, Kevin Kisner and Adam Scott. Two others are injured (Woods and Will Zalatoris). Another (Joaquin Niemann) went to LIV. □

Associated Press

Umpire Angel Hernandez loses again in lawsuit vs MLB

By **RONALD BLUM**

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Umpire Ángel Hernández lost again in his racial discrimination lawsuit against Major League Baseball when a federal appeals court refused to reinstate his case on Tuesday.

The 2nd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals upheld a 2021 District Court decision that granted MLB a summary judgment.

The Cuba-born Hernández, hired as a big league um-

pire in 1993, sued in 2017. He alleged he was discriminated against because he had not been assigned to the World Series since 2005 and had been passed over for crew chief. "Hernández has failed to establish a statistically significant disparity between the promotion rates of white and minority umpires," the 2nd Circuit said in an 11-page decision. "MLB has provided persuasive expert evidence demonstrating that, during the years at issue,

the difference in crew chief promotion rates between white and minority umpires was not statistically significant. Hernández offers no explanation as to why MLB's statistical evidence is unreliable." The decision was made by Circuit Judges Susan L. Carney and Steven J. Menash, who heard oral arguments on June 8. The court said the third member of the panel, Circuit Judge Rosemary S. Pooler, died last Thursday. Hernández claimed then-



Umpire Ángel Hernández during the first inning of a baseball game between the New York Yankees and the Houston Astros, Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

MLB executive Joe Torre, who made key decisions over umpires, held animos-

ity toward Hernández dating to Torre's time as New York Yankees manager. □

10 NFL playoff teams are integrating new play-callers to add a spark for 2023

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)

— When Steve Wilks was handed the reins of the NFL's stingiest defense in San Francisco, the priority for the new coordinator was learning what made the 49ers so good rather than installing his own system.

Wilks stepped into what was both an easy job with a star-studded defense that led the NFL in points and yards allowed under DeMeco Ryans last season and a difficult one knowing he would get the blame if there is any regression.

Coach Kyle Shanahan's main goal when looking for a new coordinator after Ryans left for the head coaching job in Houston was finding someone who would keep the structure intact.

Wilks is putting his own spin on a successful scheme, utilizing more blitzes and spending more time working on technique with the defensive backs in hopes of limiting big plays. But the defense is still using the same basic structure.

"I think the key thing is having an open mind to learn," Wilks said. "I've been around quite a bit. I've done a lot of different



San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator Steve Wilks speaks to reporters after NFL football training camp Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, in Santa Clara, Calif.

things, but it's not my way, it's the 49ers way."

The 49ers are one of 10 playoff teams from last season that are working in at least one new offensive or defensive coordinator in 2023. The NFC champion Eagles hired Brian Johnson and Sean Desai to replace OC Shane Steichen and DC Jonathan Gannon, who each got head coaching jobs.

While San Francisco and Philadelphia made the changes out of necessity, other contenders believed they needed a spark on

one side of the ball or the other.

The Ravens and Chargers wanted to overhaul offenses that had grown stagnant at times. Baltimore brought in Todd Monken and his diverse passing game to replace Greg Roman, who built a running offense around Lamar Jackson. Los Angeles hired Kellen Moore away from Dallas in hopes of unleashing Justin Herbert's big arm, which wasn't always used enough under Joe Lombardi.

The big changes on de-

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fense came in Miami, where the Dolphins hired Vic Fangio to overhaul a unit that allowed the ninth-most points in the NFL last season under Josh Boyer, and in Minnesota, where the Vikings brought in Brian Flores and his aggressive scheme to replace the more passive Ed Donatell. But Flores knows change takes time.

"You don't do it all on day one," he said. "You can't. Those teams are always fundamentally sound. To me, that's standard operating procedure. You've

got to be fundamentally sound, footwork, hand placement, communication, things of that nature. You do all those things, you give yourself a chance."

Two teams gave play-calling duties to their head coach, with Dallas' Mike McCarthy taking over the offense after Moore left and Buffalo's Sean McDermott taking over from Leslie Frazier.

"I see he's got to take two hats to practice," said Bills general manager Brandon Beane, who worked in Carolina when McDermott was defensive coordinator for the Panthers. "He's got one without the headset and one with the headset. He's going to have to have his own hat guy for game day. I think Sean is excited. It's how he got the job here. He was such a good play-caller for us in Carolina and was a big part of our success and had a lot of defensive success there and so I'm excited to see his energy."

The other new coordinators this season are Kansas City OC Matt Nagy, who was promoted when Eric Bieniemy got the same job in Washington, and Tampa Bay OC Dave Canales, who was hired to replace the fired Byron Leftwich. □

Bills tackle Brandon Shell not at practice, and team places 7th-year player on reserve-retired list

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)

— Recently signed offensive tackle Brandon Shell was not present at the Buffalo Bills' practice on Tuesday, with the team announcing the 31-year-old intends to retire after seven NFL seasons.

Shell, who was placed on the reserve-retired list, signed with the Bills on June 1 and was considered the primary backup to starting right guard Spencer Brown on the team's depth chart. His departure thins Buffalo's veteran depth at the position, leaving the team with



This is a 2023 photo showing Brandon Shell of the Buffalo Bills NFL football team.

Associated Press

only two backup tackles with NFL experience sixth-year player David Quisenberry and Tommy Doyle, who is entering his third season.

Shell played 18 snaps, including one on special teams, in a 23-19 preseason-opening win against Indianapolis on Saturday. Listed at 6-foot-5 and 324 pounds, Shell started 11 games for Miami last season after being promoted off the Dolphins' practice squad. He spent his first four seasons with the New York Jets and spent two years with the

Seattle Seahawks.

Overall, he had 72 starts in 83 career NFL games, and was a four-year starter at South Carolina before being selected by the Jets in the fifth round of the 2016 draft.

Shell's great-uncle is Pro Football Hall of Fame offensive lineman Art Shell, who spent his 15-year career with the Raiders. In other developments Tuesday, backup linebacker Tyler Matakevich was cleared for practice and activated from the physically unable to perform list. □